

TFSC meeting, 7/18/23

Meeting called to order at 6:04

I. ROLL CALL : Russ, Jeremy, Colin, Ray, Caroline present. Nelson and Blake not in attendance.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None.

Andrew Padilla attended to discuss the current state of the trails post-storm.

Lybrand: A large section of the trail is completely destroyed. To replace in kind would require extensive machine work and significant

Shaw Center: Red trail is in pretty rough shape, but is being prioritized for repairs so that it is back in usable shape when the new group of cadets arrive. Dangers of continued slide at the landslide behind the Shaw Center have been mitigated with a berm having been constructed. Andrew is meeting later this week with a trail builder to look at reconstruction of the Red Trail, pump track, and Slate Ave/Lybrand. Caroline brought up the RTP grants that will be opening in the fall as a potential funding source for any major restoration work.

Town trails: the town trails saw some damage and are very wet. Nelson has recommended closing the network until they dry out. Rather than closing the trails, the group consensus is to communicate with the community that there are dangers present on the trail due to storm damage, linking to information on proper mud-season trail etiquette and request community support to help install new waterbeds and mitigate storm damage.

Jeremy will draft a communication to the public to share via Facebook and Front Porch Forum.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 20, 2023 (Joint Meeting)

Motion to approve by Colin, second by Russ, 3-0-2, motion carries without quorum due to there only being the three members who voted to approve in attendance on June 20.

IV. UPDATES & DISCUSSION

a. VOREC Grant

Maps and way-finding signage examples are being refined. There will be a presentation on 7/25 to the Selectboard with opportunities for public comment.

b. Report from working group on TFSP update

Markup is almost complete on the Stewardship Plan, after which the group will begin selective rewrites of some areas of the plan.

c. Town Forest Zoning updates

No updates. Jeremy will reach out to the chair of the Planning Commission to see where this stands.

d. Select a member to participate with NCC on Town Forest Easement research

Committee members were encouraged to let Jeremy know if they would like to participate in research on potential Town Forest Easements

e. Trail/Hawkwatch work day

The group will try to assemble a work party for Sunday 7/23. Jeremy will reach out to Mat to get the email list of previous volunteers.

f. Conservation Project Ideas, Cheney Field Management

The group is working to generate a list of potential conservation projects. Ideas generated include

- Knotweed control? Tie to water tank replacement?
- How to best manage Cheney, I.e. creating a soft edge rather than focusing on maintaining it as grassland. How to work to maintain conditions favorable for pollinators.

g. ARPA funds request update

Jeremy has prepared an application to request \$20,000 from the town in ARPA funding for trail maintenance. Items listed include the Cheney gate, tools for trail maintenance, replacement of the foot bridges. Given the recent storm it would be good to bring the replacement of the third (most uphill) bridge to the top of the list with an eye towards rebuilding it as a higher, longer bridge.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED)

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Colin, second by Ray at 7:29. 5-0-0